

Senator Kefalas and senators of the Local Government Committee, concerning **HB 1041** to be heard this afternoon,

HB 1041 with or without amendment L.006 is ironically **increasing the distance** between the Colorado public and our presumably "open" records by:

- 1) making it more likely that custodians will **charge extra** in a variety of ways for copies of the records;
- 2) making **delays more likely** before record copies are "transmitted"—at least three days more plus transmission times for uncooperative custodians;
- 3) making it more likely that custodians can **make a profit** off of their essential role in holding and providing access to public records;
- 4) may help dissuade aggressive and problematic abusers, but will **impede and impair requesters with best intentions** and highest integrity even more; and
- 5) makes **bigger obstacles for requesters with less money**.

Some custodians are already pushing the limits of existing CORA by cleverly making obstacles. The bill and the amendment make this **bad behavior much more likely**.

I will not be testifying because I live far away and am too much affected by my increasing hopelessness about citizen participation at the Capitol.

Please stand up for the people of Colorado. We are not represented by most paid lobbyists. We are represented by elected officials who are themselves unfortunately afraid of CORA abuse.

Please rewrite the language of HB 1041 to reflect the original intentions of CORA or please postpone indefinitely this bill and let someone else write a better bill that will be consistent with the best intentions of CORA.

Please bring Coloradans closer to their public records and at a minimum **do not push us farther away**.

Please see this article entitled **In Colorado, open records laws can be a weapon against transparency**

http://www.stateintegrity.org/colorado_open_records_law_weapon_against_transparency

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